

Appln. N . 09/924,312

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 dated December 1, 2003

Response to Office Action dated September 3, 2003

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing an ink cartridge, comprising the steps of:

providing a container body, the container body including a material having a wettability that increases when the material is exposed to ultraviolet radiation and having an ink supply port shaped to receive an ink supply needle, having an inlet, formed in the container body, for use in an ink jet recorder; and

treating at least a portion of the ink supply port inlet with ultraviolet radiation to improve the wettability of the treated portion.

17. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing an ink cartridge for use in an ink jet recorder, comprising the step of heating ink while it is being injected into the ink cartridge, to a temperature of at least approximately 10 C° above the ambient temperature of the ink, the ink being a liquid even when unheated.

18. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing an ink cartridge for use in an ink jet recorder, comprising the step of heating ink while it is being injected into the ink cartridge, to a temperature of between approximately 10 C° and 20 C° above the ambient temperature of the ink, the ink being a liquid even when unheated.

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19. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing an ink cartridge for use in an ink jet recorder, comprising the step of heating ink while it is being injected into the ink cartridge, to a temperature of more than 20 C° above the ambient temperature of the ink, the ink being a liquid even when unheated.

20. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing an ink cartridge for use in an ink jet recorder, comprising the steps of:

providing a container body including a chamber for accommodating ink therein,
an ink supply port communicating with the chamber, and an opening;

scaling the ink supply port;

bonding a cover to the opening of the container body;

injecting ink into the chamber;

reducing a pressure within the ink cartridge a first time to decrease an amount of
any gas therein;

sealing a portion of the cover after the reducing step and then reducing the
pressure within the ink cartridge a second time to decrease further the amount of any gas therein;
and

sealing the remainder of the cover after the second reducing step.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein, prior to inserting the
packing member, the container is positioned on the pallet such that the first wall faces upward
away from the top of the pallet, and after inserting the packing member, resetting the container

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body on the pallet by turning the container body upside down such that the opening faces upward and the first wall faces the pallet.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, comprising the step of affixing a filter to the ink supply port inlet.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the pressure within the ink cartridge is reduced to approximately 200 mm Hg below atmospheric pressure during the second reducing step.

24. (Original) The method of claim 20, comprising the steps of inserting the container body into a bag having an opening and sealing the bag opening in a vacuum environment.

25. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing an ink cartridge for use in an ink jet recorder, comprising the steps of:

providing a container including a chamber for accommodating ink therein, and an ink supply port and an ink injection port, both communicating with the chamber;

sealing the ink supply port with a gas permeable and moisture impermeable film;

injecting ink into the chamber through the ink injection port;

reducing a pressure within the chamber to decrease an amount of any gas therein;

sealing the ink injection port after the reducing of the pressure within the chamber;

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inserting the sealed container into a bag having an opening; and
sealing the opening of the bag in an environment having a reduced pressure.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the bag opening is sealed in a vacuum environment within approximately 72 hours after the second reducing step.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein, prior to inserting the packing member, the container is positioned on the pallet such that the first wall faces upward away from the top of the pallet, and after inserting the packing member, resetting the container body on the pallet by turning the container body upside down such that the opening faces upward and the first wall faces the pallet.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, comprising the step of affixing a filter to the ink supply port inlet.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing an ink cartridge for use in an ink jet recorder, comprising the steps of:

providing a container including a chamber for accommodating ink therein, and an ink injection port communicating with the chamber;

injecting ink into the chamber through the ink injection port;

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thereafter reducing a pressure within the chamber to decrease an amount of any gas therein;

thereafter sealing the ink injection port; and

thereafter packing the container in a bag.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of injecting ink is executed under a condition of reduced pressure.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of packing the container is executed under a condition of reduced pressure.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the container further comprises an ink supply port, and wherein prior to the step of injecting ink, the ink supply port is sealed.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the ink supply port is sealed with a gas permeable and moisture impermeable film.